

## BRETHREN EVANGELIST

only that which comes from unadulterated sin, but it is here, and all can find plenty to do in saving men and women from the general wreck it brings about. The second appointment in the Lathrop church is East Union, three miles east of our village. Here is a union church, built by the women of the community at a cost of about \$1,200, a very beautiful and comfortable place of worship in which we alone hold services. The work here is sustained by about ten members and their friends, and here the names Reynolds, Wolfe, Cowell and Salmon represent devoted believers, always at the post of duty in either Sunday-school or church service. The third appointment is at Ripon, thirteen miles from home. The work here is sustained by six members and friends of the cause, who also keep up an "evergreen" Sunday-school. Here the name of Frederick stands for a host, for our brother B. G. has been its faithful leader and supporter, "Lo, these many years." The keeping up of these appointments is a part of my regular work, except that Brother Wolfe, when able, preaches at Lathrop each alternate Sunday evening. The remainder of my pastoral work is done at Turlock, thirty-five miles southeast from home. Here are thirty-five of the most devoted, generous, zealous and consecrated brethren and sisters it has ever been my good fortune to meet,—Ronks, Bonnetts, Gardiners, Varners, Johnsons, Nelson, Donovans, Osbornes, Falkerths, and others, whose equals in kindness, hospitality, sociability, generosity, Christian zeal, it were hard to find. They have replenished our larder, pockets and hearts again and again. God bless them every one, for it is beyond my ability to thank them as I would, and as they deserve. No servant of God will suffer near them, for it seems to be their chiefest delight to minister unto their brethren and more especially their pastor. Of course our congregations are large there; they always are when such thoroughly alive people are leaders in them. At present this is the most promising field for Christian work in the state. I mean, of course, for the Brethren.

My time has not been given wholly to pastoral work, for I have done some work under the direction of our state Mission Board. At its bidding I went first to Dos Palos, a hundred miles to the southward. Here we have but two members, Brother and Sister Gibson. What they lack in numbers, they fully make up in consecration. They not only believe in giving the tenth to the Lord, but they give it, and local work, missions, Sunday-schools, camp meeting and college, each are remembered from this fund. The Lord has stood by them and they have grown strong in His grace. Brother G. is in the employ of the S. P. R. R. Co., as section foreman, standing high

in the confidence of his employers and in the esteem of his neighbors. Here, too, we have a few German Baptist friends whom I love with all my heart. They are thinking to build a place of worship and I hope they will succeed in their plans, and also establish a large congregation. There are two ministers among them—Brethren Julius and Read, each of whom has shown me every courtesy in his power, and is held in high esteem by me.

I have also been sent to San Jose by the Board once, and have made a number of visits there on my own account. This is seventy miles west from my home in the world-famed Santa Clara valley, of which I shall have more to say in a future paper. Here is a splendid nucleus of Brethren—the Metzgers, Millers, Wilsons and Lundys, all formerly from Indiana. They are unorganized, and practically without a leader. It is one of the open fields and needs work badly. But unfortunately the laborers in Calif., are too few to cover the ground, and thus San Jose has little help as yet.

I have paid two visits to the little congregation at Rosena, almost 500 miles south from Lathrop, and have done what I could to encourage the brethren, and build them up in the most holy faith. There are twelve members here—Nicholsons, Showalter, Albaugh, Negleys, Miller and Duple, all under the leadership of our aged brother John Nicholson. Nestling in the narrow and picturesque San Gabriel valley, Rosena is a beautiful spot, and its people see always the magnificence of God's handiwork, for all around them and near them are the lofty peaks of the Sierra Madre mountains, and at their feet are beautiful orchards of orange, lemon and other fruit trees, all making a picture delightful to look upon. If there were only more Brethren there, and if they were more compactly settled; but few as they are, they are much scattered, and some rarely have opportunity to hear the Word preached, according to their interpretation of it. Still, the same good God and his word are to be found and enjoyed everywhere, in sparsely settled localities as well as in densely populated ones; in the solitude of the secret chamber, as well as in the congregation of worshippers. During my last visit to Rosena I preached once in Lordsburg to a fair sized audience. I also fell in with Brother and Sister Saylor of the Waterloo church, and learned to love them so well, that it was a difficult matter, at last, to say "good-bye."

I have also done some work among the Vernalis Brethren, eighteen miles from home. Here are thirty members, having a house of worship almost completed, but no regular pastor since Brother Garman has gone east. They are a hospitable, generous people, and we hope to see

our young Brother Wimer take up the work in their midst soon, and believe it will be pushed on to a successful issue. This is the home of brother J. W. Beer and here also are Browns, Carpenters, Cowells, Robinsons, Dotys, Garrisons and others whose hearts have been given to God.

In this pastoral and mission work, I have preached 312 sermons, and conducted fully a hundred other services during the last sixteen months, and have traveled many thousands of miles in doing so. Some good has been done, and some souls have been saved. God shall have all praise for whatever success has attended the work and if the success had been many times greater, He should have all the praise still. Eastern people can hardly understand the conditions existing here, and so might think the success here enjoyed as scarcely worthy of mention. First, the population is both sparse and mixed, being composed of Spaniards, Portuguese, Chinese, Japanese and other nationalities, so that it is difficult to reach many people at one time in the rural communities. Second, the people as a class are educated far above the average eastern man. There is comparatively little religious influence in the process of education, and so many are agnostics, while not a few are out and out skeptics. The former often not only does "not know," but does not *want* to know and so makes a difficult subject for religious training. Many of the latter class don't believe and *won't* believe, no matter what may be said, making it also an unpromising class to work with. But while there is much material hard to shape for use in God's great temple, I repeat what I said in a former paper: "No where can one find a more devoted and self-sacrificing band of Christian people than he finds in this field." By way of illustration, let me state briefly what is being done by our California Brethren to advance the cause which is dear to all our hearts. Of the total numerical strength of the church in this state, not more than 100 members are so situated as to be constantly in touch with organized effort. Those whom I serve as pastor, number but seventy-five and they pay me a salary of \$500 per year, not in promises, but in reality. During the last year they have paid their \$300 college apportionment. They pay over \$200 to support mission work in the state, and contribute about \$75 to the National mission work of which \$40 has been sent in since Oct. 1, '97. The support of their Sunday-schools costs them at least \$100, and incidentals fully as much more. Besides all this, their pastor has received many generous gifts at their hands. I find thus in going over the items, that 100 members have contributed more than \$1,500 during the last year for the sup-